

German Air Force Defense Center leaves Fort Bliss, relocates to Germany

by Erika Esquivel Tuesday, May 17th 2022

EL PASO, Texas (KFOX14/CBS4) — The German Air Force Defense Center at Fort Bliss is leaving after almost 66 years and relocating back to Germany.

The GAFADC will be deactivated on June 30.

In the future, German Air Defense personnel will be trained at the new Air Defense Training Center in Husum, Germany.

"It's such a sad story and such a sad moment. It's our second home here," said Lieutenant Colonel Ingo Sharschmidt the commander of the German Air Force Defense Center at Fort Bliss.

"[We're going to miss] the marvelous weather, days of sunshine, Mexican food, and the great community of El Paso," said Sharschmidt. "It was not the plan to leave. Time changes, the crisis in Europe is there and that is why unfortunately we have to leave," said Sharschmidt

"We have to face war in Europe because of the Ukraine crisis, after 70 years of freedom. We are prepared with our allies and friend including the United States," said Sharschmidt.

The color-casing ceremony took place Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Noel Parade Field at the base.

The color-casing-ceremony marks the end of German Air Defense training at Fort Bliss.

This also ends the collaboration and joint training with American soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss.

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